Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing cardiovascular disease complications in a patient following surgery comprising the step of: administering to the patient a ~~pharmacologic cardiovascular agent~~ **β_1-adrenergic blocking agent** ~~prior to or during surgery, or~~ immediately after surgery, and daily thereafter until symptoms of cardiovascular stress are reduced ~~or the patient is discharged from the hospital~~ wherein the agent is administered near the maximum effective dose of the agent while the patient's heart rate is greater than or equal to 65 bpm, ~~while~~ **and** the patient's systolic blood pressure is greater than or equal to 100 mm Hg, and ~~while~~ the patient evidences no congestive heart failure, third degree heart block, or bronchospasm.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 in which the agent is administered daily in the period after surgery until hospital discharge.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 2 in which the agent is administered daily in the period after surgery for at least three days.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 2 in which the agent is administered daily in the period after surgery for up to seven days.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~5~~ **1** in which the **β_1-adrenergic blocking** agent is atenolol.

7 - 4. (Cancelled)

15. (Original) The method of Claim 1 in which the patient suffers from coronary artery disease.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the patient is at risk for coronary artery disease.

17-49. (Cancelled)

50. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 in which the patient has had previous vascular surgery or has at least two of the following cardiac risk factors: older than 65 years, hypertensive, current smoker, serum cholesterol level of at least 6.2 mmol/L, or diabetes mellitus.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 in which the agent is atenolol and the maximum effective dose is about 100 mg/day orally or about 10 mg BID intravenously.

52. (Cancelled)

53. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~52~~ 1 wherein the agent is administered daily for six months following surgery.

54. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~52~~ 1 wherein the agent is administered daily for eight months following surgery.